

DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 069 981

AC 014 035

TITLE Word Roots, Prefixes and Suffixes: Level I, Unit 1, Lesson 1; Word Context Clues: Lesson 2. Advanced General Education Program. A High School Self-Study Program.

INSTITUTION Manpower Administration (DOL), Washington, D. C. Job Corps.

REPORT NO PM-431-1; PM-431-2

PUB DATE Nov 69

NOTE 59p.

EDRS PRICE MF-\$0.65 HC-\$3.29

DESCRIPTORS Context Clues; *Educational Programs; *General Education; *High Schools; *Independent Study; Literary Criticism; Mathematics; Natural Sciences; Self Expression; Social Studies; Tests; *Word Recognition

ABSTRACT

An advanced General Education Program has been designed to prepare an individual with the information, concepts, and general knowledge required to successfully pass the American Council on Education's High School General Education Development (GED) Test. The Advanced General Education Program provides comprehensive self-instruction in each of the following areas: (1) Correctness and effectiveness of Expression, (2) Social Studies, (3) Natural Sciences, (4) Interpretation of Literary Materials, and (5) General Mathematics. This document covers word roots, prefixes and suffixes, and word context clues. (CK)

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PM 431 - 1

ADVANCED GENERAL EDUCATION PROGRAM

A HIGH SCHOOL SELF-STUDY PROGRAM

WORD ROOTS, PREFIXES AND SUFFIXES

LEVEL: I

UNIT: 1

LESSON: 1



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
MANPOWER ADMINISTRATION, JOB CORPS
NOVEMBER 1969

AC014035

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1.

INTRODUCTION

As you take these lessons to prepare you for the tests that lead to a high school equivalency certificate, you will come across words whose meanings you do not know. One way to learn the meaning of new words is to look them up in a dictionary. But that takes time, and it can be annoying to have to stop and look up a word.

In this lesson, you will learn some skills that will help you to figure out the meaning of many new words -- without having to use your dictionary. You will learn how to examine a word carefully, how to look at it closely, looking for a familiar part of the word that will help you figure out the whole word.

NO RESPONSE REQUIRED

GO ON TO THE NEXT FRAME

2.

Read the paragraph below, looking carefully at the underlined words.

They all started running when the starting gun was fired. It was a close race all the way. But then a dog darted onto the track, getting in the way of one of the runners. In order to be fair, they decided to rerun the race.

Each of the underlined words above contains the same small word. A word that can take beginnings or endings to form larger words is a root.

DRAW a circle around the root in each of these words:

running
runners
rerun

running
runners
rerun

Since the words above all have the same root, their meanings are similar. Running, runners and rerun all have something to do with:

- ☐ being fair
- ☐ dogs
- ☐ guns
- ☐ moving quickly

moving quickly

3.

Read each of these sentences, looking carefully at the underlined words.

Judging from Ken's messy workbench, he was completely disorganized about his project.

Bob could never find the papers he wanted, so he decided to reorganize his desk.

Ted didn't quite understand the organization of the tool shop, so he always had trouble finding what he wanted.

The root of organization is organize.

CIRCLE the root in each of these words.

disorganized
reorganized

disorganized
reorganized

Each of the underlined words above comes from the same root, so they have similar meanings. They all have something to do with:

- ☐ making something
- ☐ playing a musical instrument
- ☐ putting things in order
- ☐ reading

putting things in order

4.

If you do not know what a word means, but you know what its root means, you have a very good clue to the meaning of the unfamiliar word.

Disorganized reorganize and organization all have:

- ☐ different roots
- ☐ opposite meanings
- ☐ the same meaning
- ☐ the same root
- ☐ similar roots

the same root

5

6. The crowd laughed uncontrollably.

Uncontrollably means _____.

7. The teacher demanded perfection from his students.

Perfection means _____.

8. He answered the question inexactly.

Inexactly means _____.

9. The countryside seemed picturesque.

Picturesque means _____.

10. The boys were unmanageable.

Unmanageable means _____.

Time Completed _____

WHEN YOU HAVE FINISHED THIS TEST, WRITE DOWN THE TIME. THEN TAKE THE LESSON TO YOUR INSTRUCTOR OR HIS ASSISTANT FOR CHECKING. WAIT UNTIL THE LESSON IS APPROVED BEFORE GOING ON TO THE NEXT LESSON.

5.

CIRCLE the root in each of these words:

connected
connection
disconnect

connected
connection
disconnect

6.

CIRCLE the root in each of these words:

teaching
teacher
reteach

teaching
teacher
reteach

7.

CIRCLE the root in each of these words:

action
actor
react

action
actor
react

8.

CIRCLE the root in each of these words:

correction
corrective
incorrect
recorrect

correction
corrective
incorrect
recorrect

7

Directions: Read each sentence. Then WRITE in the blank a word or a phrase that means the same thing as the underlined word.

For example, suppose you were given this sentence:

John walked down the street rapidly.

This is how you might have answered:

Rapidly means quickly.

Or you might have answered this way:

Rapidly means in a hurry.

-
1. The United States supremacy in the Olympic Field and Track events has been successfully challenged by Russia.

Supremacy means _____.

2. He worked unnecessarily hard.

Unnecessarily means _____.

3. The team was behind in the first quarter because the coach sent in a substitute prematurely.

Prematurely means _____.

4. In his costume, he was unrecognizable.

Unrecognizable means _____.

5. Gas and oil must be mixed in the right proportions for a car's engine to work.

Proportions means _____.

<p>9.</p> <p>CIRCLE the root in each of these words:</p> <p>dependent independent independence interdependent</p>	<p>dependent independent independence interdependent</p>
<p>10.</p> <p>The root of a word can be:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> at the beginning of the word <input type="checkbox"/> at the end of the word <input type="checkbox"/> in the middle of the word</p>	<p>at the beginning of the word at the end of the word in the middle of the word</p>
<p>11.</p> <p>DRAW a circle around the root in each of these words. (The first one is done for you.)</p> <p>harmless nonsense soften strangeness unsuccessful</p>	<p>nonsense soften strangeness unsuccessful</p>
<p>12.</p> <p>CIRCLE the root in each of these words:</p> <p>impossible laughter misbehaved misfortune powerful</p>	<p>impossible laughter misbehaved misfortune powerful</p>

8

MASTERY TEST

Time started _____

13.

Quite often the root of a word is changed a little when it is combined with other letters to make a larger word. For example, the word happiness has as its root the word happy. In this case, the letter "y" was simply changed to the letter "i."

Sometimes part of a root word is left out of the larger word. For example, the word muscular comes from the root word muscle.

For each of the words below, figure out what the root is, and WRITE it on the line next to the word. (The first one is done for you.)

continually

Continue

decision

happiness

indescribable

impossibility

loveliness

plentiful

undesirable

decide

heavy

describe

possible

love or lovely

plenty

desire

14.

When you find words whose meaning you do not know, some of these words will have roots that you do know. If so, you will be able to figure out what the larger word means.

READ this sentence, paying special attention to the underlined word.

John wasn't able to differentiate between the twins.

You probably do not know the meaning of the word differentiate, but you can discover what it means by looking for a familiar root in the word.

CIRCLE the root in this word:

differentiate

differentiate or differentiate

<p>ROOT</p>	<p>a word that is part of a larger word</p> <p>EXAMPLES: the word RUN appears in the word RUNNING</p> <p>the word PREPARE is the root of PREPARATORY</p>
<p>word clues:</p> <p>UN - (before a root word)</p> <p>IN - (before a root word)</p>	<p>often means NOT</p> <p>EXAMPLES: UNSURE means "not sure" UNCOOKED means "not cooked"</p> <p>often means NOT</p> <p>EXAMPLES: INDIRECT means "not direct" INACTIVE means "not active"</p>

15.

Now READ this sentence again:

John wasn't able to differentiate between the twins.

The word differentiate tells us that John wasn't able to:

- ☐ collect any money from the twins
- ☐ see any space between the twins
- ☐ stand between the twins
- ☐ tell which twin was which

tell which twin was which

16.

Here is another sentence containing a word you may not know. See if you can figure out what it means by looking for a familiar root.

There is a lot of preparatory work to be done before you take the GED tests.

WRITE down the root word that preparatory comes from. _____

prepare

17.

CHECK the sentence where putting the word preparatory in the blank makes the most sense.

- ☐ There are a lot of _____ arrangements to be made before going on a trip.
- ☐ His advisor told him to wait until the project was finished, and then do the _____ work.

There are a lot of preparatory arrangements to be made before going on a trip.

59.

You have now learned three good ways of attacking new words. Put a T next to the true statements below. Put an F next to those that are false.

- | | | |
|----------|--|---|
| 1. _____ | The letters "in" at the beginning of a word always mean "not". | F |
| 2. _____ | The letters "un" in the beginning of a word always mean "not". | F |
| 3. _____ | The letters "un" in front of a word often mean "not". | T |
| 4. _____ | There are words beginning with the letters "in" where these letters mean "not". | T |
| 5. _____ | The spelling of a root is sometimes changed when it is combined with other letters to make a new word. | T |
| 6. _____ | You can often figure out the meaning of a word by looking for a familiar root in it. | T |

60.

Did you mark question 1 or question 2 with a T (answer to yourself)? If so, stop a minute and think about this: When reading questions and statements look for the word always. Some things are often true but not always. A question may be trying to test your ability to think about the difference between sometimes and always.

NO RESPONSE REQUIRED

GO ON TO THE NEXT FRAME

61.

You have learned how to examine words and derive or figure out their meaning by looking for a familiar part of the word. As you continue your studies, you'll probably be surprised to see how often this skill will help you.

YOU HAVE NOW FINISHED THE FIRST PART OF THIS LESSON. WRITE DOWN THE TIME. THEN, AFTER YOU HAVE REVIEWED THE MAIN IDEAS IN THE FOLLOWING SUMMARY, TAKE THE MASTERY TEST AT THE END OF THE BOOK-LET.

<p>18.</p> <p>The water began to <u>solidify</u>.</p> <p>The root of solidify is <u>solid</u>, which means <u>hard</u>.</p> <p>In this example, the word <u>solidify</u> tells us that the water started to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> boil <input type="checkbox"/> freeze <input type="checkbox"/> get dark <input type="checkbox"/> spill 	<p>freeze</p>
<p>19.</p> <p>The President's <u>declaration</u> was frightening.</p> <p>The root of declaration is <u>declare</u>, which means <u>say</u>.</p> <p>In the sentence above, <u>declaration</u> means:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> army <input type="checkbox"/> face <input type="checkbox"/> promise <input type="checkbox"/> statement 	<p>statement</p>
<p>20.</p> <p>If you talked with an <u>argumentative</u> person, he would probably:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> disagree with you <input type="checkbox"/> not have much to say <input type="checkbox"/> speak in a quiet voice <input type="checkbox"/> tell many jokes 	<p>disagree with you</p>

57.

There are many words beginning with the letters "in" that do not follow the rule you have just learned. In these words, the "in" is part of the word itself.

What is the easiest and fastest way to tell if the letters "in" in the beginning of a word mean "not"?

- ☐ ask your teacher what the word means
- ☐ cover up the letters "in" and see if you recognize a familiar word in what is left
- ☐ guess
- ☐ look the word up in your dictionary

cover up the letters "in" . . .

58.

COVER up the "in" in each of these words. If you have a word left, CIRCLE the word. If the letters "in" are part of the word itself, DRAW a circle around the whole word. The first two are done for you.

inadequate

interval

individual

informal

initial

injustice

interest

individual

informal

initial

injustice

interest

<p>21.</p> <p>Some scientists are called <u>behaviorists</u>. What do you think they study?</p> <p> <input type="checkbox"/> biology <input type="checkbox"/> the way people and animals act <input type="checkbox"/> the way people dress <input type="checkbox"/> what people think </p>	<p>the way people . . . act</p>
<p>22.</p> <p>If someone went on an <u>exploratory</u> trip, he would be:</p> <p> <input type="checkbox"/> carrying dynamite <input type="checkbox"/> looking for something <input type="checkbox"/> traveling by airplane <input type="checkbox"/> visiting friends </p>	<p>looking for something</p>
<p>23.</p> <p>A <u>studious</u> person is one who:</p> <p> <input type="checkbox"/> comes from a big city <input type="checkbox"/> enjoys the out-of-doors <input type="checkbox"/> is funny <input type="checkbox"/> likes to read </p>	<p>likes to read</p>
<p>24.</p> <p>A "defect" is a "fault". Should a brand new car be <u>defective</u>?</p> <p> <input type="checkbox"/> no <input type="checkbox"/> yes </p>	<p>no</p>

55.

READ the following paragraph. Try to figure out what the underlined word means.

Jim was reading a very complicated book about electricity. It told how to make a radio. The instructions were all very clear. But when Jim got near the end of the chapter, there was one direction that just didn't make sense. Finally he realized that there was an inaccuracy in the book.

Inaccuracy means _____.

mistake
(or equivalent response)

56.

READ this paragraph. Try to decide what the underlined word means.

Carl returned from the war with a foot injury which he got when a grenade exploded near him. He had his leg in a cast for two months, and then he used crutches for another month. After that, he was able to walk unassisted, but his foot still hurt him sometimes.

Unassisted means _____.

without help; by himself
(or equivalent response)

25.

To have "influence" means to have "the power to change things". Which of these people would be most influential in running a city?

- ☐ a doctor
- ☐ a mayor
- ☐ a policeman
- ☐ a teacher

a mayor

26.

To "resist" means to "oppose, or go against". Which of these things shows the greatest resistance to water?

- ☐ cotton
- ☐ paper
- ☐ plastic
- ☐ a sponge

plastic

19

<p>52.</p> <p>"frequent" means "often"</p> <p>Which of these things happens most <u>infrequently</u>?</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> a new president is elected</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> it rains</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> the sun rises</p>	<p>a new president is elected</p>
<p>53.</p> <p>"consistent" means "in agreement with"</p> <p>Which of these things is <u>inconsistent</u> with the idea of justice?</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> An innocent man is put in jail.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> A man accused of a crime is given a fair trial.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> A man who is caught speeding has to pay a fine.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> All citizens* are given equal opportunities.</p> <p>*A <u>citizen</u> is a member of a state or country. His country offers him rights and protection.</p>	<p>An innocent man is put in jail.</p>
<p>54.</p> <p>"dispute" is to "argue" or "disagree"</p> <p>Which of these statements is <u>indisputable</u>?</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Johnson will be re-elected president in 1968.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> The Yankees will win the pennant next year.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> The sun will rise tomorrow.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> The U.S. will be the first to put a man on the moon.</p>	<p>The sun will rise tomorrow.</p>

27.

accumulate or cumulate: to collect; to increase
in number

READ each sentence and use the above definition to
answer the question below it.

Most of the people said they saw the old man
try to save the dog. A few people said the
man didn't try. The cumulative effect of all
the discussion was that the owner of the dog
thanked the old man.

This means that because so many people said they saw
the old man try:

- ☐ the few people were lying
- ☐ the people said the old man didn't try
because they disliked him
- ☐ their opinions added up and convinced
the owner

Rick was quite proud of his accumulation of
Corpsmen Advisory System points.

This means that Rick probably:

- ☐ doesn't know how many points he has
- ☐ has an average number of points
- ☐ has only a couple of points
- ☐ has quite a few points

their opinions added up . . .

has quite a few points

<p>49.</p> <p>"stable" means "lasting" or "steady"</p> <p>Which of these people show the greatest <u>instability</u>?</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> a boy in school</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> a man who has been a mechanic for 20 years</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> a man who was drafted and who decided to make the army his career</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> a young man who has had seven jobs in two years</p>	<p>a young man who has had . . .</p>
<p>50.</p> <p>"compatible" means "able to get along"</p> <p>Their adviser couldn't understand the boys' <u>incompatibility</u>.</p> <p>This means that the adviser didn't know:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> what the boys liked to do</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> where the boys came from</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> why the boys were so friendly</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> why the boys were unfriendly</p>	<p>why the boys were unfriendly</p>
<p>51.</p> <p>"audible" means "able to be heard"</p> <p>If you wanted your voice to be <u>inaudible</u>, you would probably:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> laugh</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> shout</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> talk in a normal voice</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> whisper</p>	<p>whisper</p>

28.

intend: to plan; to have something in mind

It was his intention to make a million dollars.

In the sentence above, intention means:

- ☐ chance
- ☐ fate
- ☐ goal
- ☐ luck

The father hit his son intentionally.

- ☐ by mistake
- ☐ hard
- ☐ on purpose
- ☐ suddenly

goal

on purpose

29.

voluntary: done by one's own choice

The Peace Corps is made up of volunteer workers.

This means that the people who work in the Peace Corps:

- ☐ are hard workers
- ☐ are valuable
- ☐ want to be in the Peace Corps
- ☐ were forced into the Peace Corps

Gene went to work voluntarily.

This means he went:

- ☐ because he wanted to
- ☐ because he was afraid
- ☐ because he was forced to
- ☐ because he was hungry

want to be in the Peace Corps

because he wanted to

46.

FILL IN THE BLANK with the word that best completes each of these sentences.

active - inactive

Because it was so hot out, Fred was happy to remain _____.

visible - invisible

When it's dark out, and you're walking in the street, it's good to wear something light-colored so you will be _____ to drivers.

inactive

visible

47.

"sufficient" means "enough"

Much of the land in Egypt gets insufficient rainfall for growing food.

This means that there is:

- ☐ just enough rain
- ☐ plenty of rain
- ☐ too little rain
- ☐ too much rain

too little rain

48.

"distinct" means "clear"

The announcer's voice was indistinct.

This means that:

- ☐ he could be heard clearly
- ☐ he spoke in a foreign language
- ☐ his voice was very loud
- ☐ you could hardly understand him

you could hardly . . .

30.

MATCH the words in the right hand column with the definitions on the left.

- | | | |
|-----------------------------------|----------------------|---|
| A. brave | 1. _____ accuracy | C |
| B. concerning mothers and fathers | 2. _____ courageous | A |
| C. correctness | 3. _____ falsify | F |
| D. growing up | 4. _____ maturation | D |
| E. having strong ideas | 5. _____ opinionated | E |
| F. make untrue | 6. _____ parental | B |

31.

When you come across a new word that you do not know, you can often figure out what it means by looking for a familiar root.

This means that you:

- ☐ look for a word you know within the new word
- ☐ look the word up in the dictionary
- ☐ skip over the word and hope it isn't too important

look for a word you know . . .

32.

STOP

WRITE the time you finished frame 31 here: _____

It's time to take a break. You have completed half of your lesson on how to analyze words. Leave your lesson on your desk and leave the room quietly. Relax and stretch your legs. Don't take more than ten minutes. When you return to your desk, try not to disturb other students who are working.

44.

Now that you have learned the "un" clue, you are ready for another clue. Here it is: "in"

LOOK at this pair of words: correct - incorrect

The pair of words above have:

- ☐ opposite meanings
- ☐ the same meanings
- ☐ similar meanings

The letters "in" in front of a root word means:

- ☐ again
- ☐ in
- ☐ not
- ☐ out

"In" and "un" change a word by

- ☐ always keeping the same root
- ☐ making it into its opposite

opposite meanings

not

making it into its opposite

45.

FILL IN THE BLANK with the correct word from each pair to complete the sentences below.

complete - incomplete

Tom was embarrassed to go to class because his homework was _____.

direct - indirect

Since he was in a hurry, Jack chose the shortest, most _____ path to the park, where his buddies were waiting for him.

incomplete

direct

Write the time you returned from your
break here: _____

43.

Not all words that begin with the letters "un" follow the rule you just learned. Sometimes, the letters "un" are part of the actual word. For example, LOOK at this word: unite

Cover up the letters "un" in the word "unite." You are left with the letters "ite." "Ite" does not mean anything by itself, so the word unite cannot mean the opposite of "ite."

Try this test on the following words. Cover up the letters "un." If you have a familiar word left, CIRCLE that part of the word. If the letters "un" are part of the whole word, then DRAW a circle around the whole word. The first two are done for you.

uniform

unable

uncertain

uncommon

undiscovered

unemployed

unhappy

unity

universal

uncertain

uncommon

undiscovered

unemployed

unhappy

unity

universal

33

So far, you have learned that whenever you see a word you do not know, you should look for a part of the word that is familiar to you. In this way, you will be able to figure out the meaning of the larger word.

There are other important clues that will help you understand the meaning of unfamiliar words.

Here is one such clue: un

That's right! Just the two letters "un" can give you a clue to the meaning of many words. For example, LOOK at this pair of words.

necessary - unnecessary

These two words are spelled exactly alike except that the second word has two letters added to the beginning. What are these letters? _ _

"Necessary" means "needed." What does "unnecessary" mean?

- ☐ needed
- ☐ not needed

u n

not needed

34.

Now LOOK at this pair of words:

important - unimportant

The two words are spelled the same, except the second one has the letters _ _

The meaning of these two words are:

- ☐ opposite
- ☐ the same
- ☐ similar

"Defeated" means "beaten." If a fighter is undefeated, it means he:

- ☐ has never lost a fight
- ☐ has never won a fight

u n

opposite

has never lost a fight

41.

"controversy" means "disagreement"

The topic under discussion was uncontroversial.

This means that:

- ☐ everyone had different opinions about the topic
- ☐ no one had strong feelings for or against the topic
- ☐ no one knew very much about the topic
- ☐ no one was interested in the topic

no one had strong . . .

42.

A "compromise" is an agreement reached by having each side give in a little.

His father was completely uncompromising when it came to letting Jim stay out all night.

This means that Jim's father:

- ☐ didn't care whether or not Jim stayed out all night
- ☐ would always let Jim stay out all night
- ☐ would never let Jim stay out all night
- ☐ would sometimes let Jim stay out all night

would never let Jim . . .

<p>35.</p> <p>When a word has the letters "un" added to it, the new word will have a meaning that is:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> the opposite of the original word</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> the same as the original word</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> similar to the original word</p>	<p>the opposite of the . . .</p>
<p>36.</p> <p>PICK the word from each pair that will best complete the sentence and FILL IN the blank.</p> <p>cook - uncooked</p> <p>Mrs. Miller forgot to turn on the oven before she left, so when she got home, the meat was still _____.</p> <p>sure - unsure</p> <p>Bill studied all night, so when he went to take the test he was very _____ of himself.</p>	<p>uncooked</p> <p>sure</p>
<p>37.</p> <p>COMPLETE each sentence by writing the correct word on the line.</p> <p>used - unused</p> <p>The plastic wrapper around the record was torn, so Dick was sure that the record had been _____.</p> <p>harmed - unharmed</p> <p>Tom had given the other guy a bloody nose, but he himself didn't get a single scratch -- he was completely _____.</p>	<p>used</p> <p>unharmed</p>

<p>38.</p> <p>Using what you have learned about roots, <u>and</u> about the letters "un," answer the following questions.</p> <p>The child's question was <u>unanswerable</u>.</p> <p>This means that the child's question was:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> difficult to answer <input type="checkbox"/> easy to answer <input type="checkbox"/> impossible to answer <input type="checkbox"/> silly 	<p>impossible to answer</p>
<p>39.</p> <p>The cat was completely <u>unpredictable</u>.</p> <p>This means that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> the cat liked to do many different things <input type="checkbox"/> the cat was always hungry <input type="checkbox"/> the cat was very unfriendly <input type="checkbox"/> you could never tell what the cat was going to do 	<p>you could never tell what . . .</p>
<p>40.</p> <p>The baby was <u>undisturbed</u> by the loud noise.</p> <p>This means that the baby:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> enjoyed the noise <input type="checkbox"/> was awakened by the noise <input type="checkbox"/> was frightened by the noise <input type="checkbox"/> wasn't bothered by the noise 	<p>wasn't bothered by the noise</p>

ADVANCED GENERAL EDUCATION PROGRAM

A HIGH SCHOOL SELF-STUDY PROGRAM

WORD CONTEXT CLUES

LEVEL: 1

UNIT: 1

LESSON: 2



**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
MANPOWER ADMINISTRATION, JOB CORPS
NOVEMBER 1969**

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MANPOWER ADMINISTRATION, JOB CORPS

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1.

INTRODUCTION

In the last lesson, you learned an important vocabulary skill: how to discover the meaning of new words by looking at the words themselves. You learned that many words have familiar roots which may help you to understand what the longer words mean.

This lesson is going to teach you how to figure out the meaning of words that are totally unfamiliar to you -- words that have no familiar roots. You will see that the words around the unfamiliar word often give clues to its definition, or its meaning. You will learn how to examine the words around a new word in order to find these clues.

NO RESPONSE REQUIRED

GO ON TO THE NEXT FRAME

2.

A word lives in a neighborhood of words. If you study the neighborhood, you may find a word's meaning.

Let's examine a word in its neighborhood. The word we are looking at is "prohibit".

Because broken glass and rusty cans are dangerous, Coney Island should prohibit all eating and drinking on the beach.
Picnics should not be allowed on any beach.

Prohibit means _____

should not be allowed

35

4. The school principal had been listening to complaints all day long. If one more person came to him with a grievance he'd probably feel like socking him.

Grievance means _____.

5. The boy meant to help his mother, but it turned out that he was hindering her instead.

Hindering means _____.

6. Each of the men tried to lift the heavy box, but neither of them could do it alone. Then they decided to try it together. Through their mutual effort, they were able to move it.

Mutual means _____.

7. Some people are very prosperous. They have a great deal of money and can do whatever they want.

Prosperous means _____.

8. Some types of birds are very prevalent. Others are quite uncommon, and can be seen only in zoos.

Prevalent means _____.

9. In order to alleviate the problem, he did everything in his power to make extra money.

Alleviate means _____.

10. His two favorite TV programs came on concurrently, so he had to watch one or the other. He could never see them both.

Concurrently means _____.

Time completed _____

WHEN YOU HAVE FINISHED THIS TEST, WRITE DOWN THE TIME. THEN TAKE THE LESSON TO YOUR INSTRUCTOR OR HIS ASSISTANT FOR CHECKING. WAIT UNTIL THE LESSON IS APPROVED BEFORE GOING ON TO THE NEXT LESSON.

<p>3.</p> <p>Here is another example of how the definition of a word may be given in the sentences around it.</p> <p>The <u>blizzard</u> swept into the city unexpectedly. The <u>snowstorm with high winds</u> caught the drivers unaware. Many cars were stuck in snow-filled streets.</p> <p>A <u>blizzard</u> is a _____</p>	<p>snowstorm with high winds</p>
<p>4.</p> <p>The bird <u>sanctuary</u> offered a safe resting place to birds flying south.</p> <p>A <u>sanctuary</u> is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> a place of protection <input type="checkbox"/> a place with food available <input type="checkbox"/> a place with heat available <input type="checkbox"/> a place with lots of trees 	<p>a place of protection</p>
<p>5.</p> <p>In this example you can find the meaning of <u>violating</u> in the first sentence.</p> <p>CIRCLE the words that help you define violating.</p> <p>Parking your car in front of a fire hydrant is against the law. If you park there, you'll get a ticket for <u>violating</u> the law.</p> <p><u>Violating</u> in this sentence means:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> breaking a fire hydrant <input type="checkbox"/> breaking a law <input type="checkbox"/> getting a ticket <input type="checkbox"/> parking a car 	<p>against the law</p> <p>breaking a law</p>

Directions: Read each sentence carefully. Then WRITE in the blank a word or phrase that means the same thing as the underlined word.

For example, suppose you were given this sentence:

The hurricane had done much damage to the city; the wind had even blown the roof off the new city hall.

Here is how you might have answered:

Hurricane means a strong wind.

Here is another example:

The woman was so excited about winning a thousand dollars that she started to cry; nothing anyone did seemed to calm her.

Your answer for this might be:

Excited means happy and nervous.

1. So many people wanted to watch the game that the stadium rapidly became congested. In fact, it had never been so full before.

Congested means _____.

2. The teacher had to curtail the children's game. She was afraid that if she let the game continue, someone would get hurt.

Curtail means _____.

3. People live in many kinds of houses, depending on where they live. Some domiciles are made of brick or wood, while others are made of animal skins, or even ice.

Domiciles are _____.

6.

A generator is a machine that produces electrical energy.

CIRCLE the words in the sentence below that would help you to figure out the meaning of generator if you didn't have the definition.

When the town's electricity went off, a private generator supplied electricity to the hospital.

supplied electricity

7.

Sometimes you can find the meaning of a word in the neighborhood around it, that is, in the context of the word.

Context means:

- ☐ the dictionary definition of a word
- ☐ the root of a word
- ☐ the words or sentences surrounding a word

the words or sentences . .

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MASTERY TEST

Time started _____

<p>8.</p> <p>At the beginning of this lesson, you learned that prohibiting picnics means forbidding picnics.</p> <p>Let's look at prohibit in another context.</p> <p>"Sure, I'd like to take a trip to Africa, but the cost of an airline ticket is <u>prohibitive</u>. I'm not made of gold, you know."</p> <p>In this context, prohibit has a slightly different meaning than it did when it was surrounded by words about Coney Island. When this fellow says that the cost of the ticket is prohibitive, he means that the cost of the trip:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> is forbidden <input type="checkbox"/> makes him realize how little money he has <input type="checkbox"/> makes him think twice <input type="checkbox"/> stops him from taking it <p>You could figure out the meaning of prohibitive because you knew the meaning of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> its context <input type="checkbox"/> its root 	<p>stops him from taking it</p> <p>its context its root</p>
<p>9.</p> <p>Let's examine a few more words in context. LOOK for the definition of the underlined word in the words around it.</p> <p>In order to <u>modify</u> a standard model car so that it can be used in stock car races, certain parts must be taken out and others put in.</p> <p><u>Modify</u> means:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> change <input type="checkbox"/> clean <input type="checkbox"/> decorate <input type="checkbox"/> streamline 	<p>change</p>

CONTEXT**WORDS IN CONTRAST**

words which are clues that there is a contrast

Three ways of finding the meaning of a word

means "the words of sentences that surround a word"

"words that mean the opposite of each other"

ALTHOUGH, BUT, HOWEVER

1. Look at the sentences around the word.
2. Find a word that means the same thing.

EXAMPLE: "They had many people whose intention or plan was that the building be finished soon."

(If you don't know what the word "intention" means, the sentence tells you that it means the same thing as "plan".)

3. Find a word that means the opposite.

EXAMPLE: "This food is very beneficial but that food is quite harmful."

(The word "but" tells you that the meaning of "beneficial" is the opposite of "harmful".)

<p>10.</p> <p>Any car that is parked illegally gets a ticket. It doesn't matter to whom the car belongs. The policeman said that it was <u>irrelevant</u> that it was the mayor's car.</p> <p><u>Irrelevant</u> means:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> beside the point <input type="checkbox"/> illegal <input type="checkbox"/> unfair <input type="checkbox"/> unfortunate 	<p>beside the point</p>
<p>11.</p> <p>The pitcher struck out six men in <u>succession</u>. The opposing team felt sure it would lose the game if the pitcher kept striking out each batter in turn.</p> <p><u>Succession</u> means:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> a losing battle <input type="checkbox"/> one by one, in turn <input type="checkbox"/> successful action <input type="checkbox"/> total 	<p>one by one, in turn</p>
<p>12.</p> <p>Successful means gaining success or achieving a good result.</p> <p>You know from the last frame that <u>succession</u> means <u>in turn</u>.</p> <p>This means that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> you can always tell the meaning of a word by its root <input type="checkbox"/> you should always study the context of the word, even when you know what the root means 	<p>you should always study . . .</p>

44.

In this lesson, you have learned three ways of finding the meaning of unknown words by looking at the context in which they appear. You learned to look for a given meaning in the sentences around the unfamiliar word. You also learned to look for a word that is similar to the one you don't know. And finally, you learned to look for contrast. Once you find a word that means the opposite of the one you don't know, you can figure out what the unfamiliar word means.

You now have two vocabulary skills. You will be given practice in these skills in future lessons. Whenever you come across a word you don't know, stop! Look at the word. Does it have a familiar root? Can you figure out its meaning from the context?

If you do this every time you meet a new word, you will become very skilled in figuring out word meanings. This will be of great help to you when you take the tests that will help you to get a high school equivalency certificate.

Time completed _____

YOU HAVE NOW FINISHED THE FIRST PART OF THIS LESSON. WRITE DOWN THE TIME. THEN, AFTER YOU HAVE REVIEWED THE MAIN IDEAS IN THE FOLLOWING SUMMARY, TAKE THE MASTERY TEST AT THE END OF THE BOOK-LET.

c2

13.

Hot dogs, soda, and potato chips are good once in a while, but a steady diet of them would eventually have a bad effect on you. In the end you would realize that a balanced diet is more healthful.

Eventually means:

- ☐ finally
- ☐ positively
- ☐ possibly
- ☐ soon

finally

43.

READ the following:

The judge didn't want the jury to be influenced by other people, so he isolated them by putting them in a room by themselves. They began to discuss the case. Someone pointed out that although most of the evidence was plausible, some of it couldn't possibly be true. Most of the facts agreed with each other, but some were contradictory. Soon everyone agreed that the man was guilty. Then there was an argument about how to punish him. Most people wanted to be lenient; however, a few thought he should be given severe punishment. It seemed as if the discussion would go on forever, but it finally terminated at midnight. The man was given a two-year sentence.

Each of the underlined words above is listed below. Use the passage to help you figure out what they mean. Then MATCH them with their definitions in Column A.

Column A

Column B

- | | | |
|--------------------------|------------------------|------|
| A. ended | 1. _____ isolated | 1. F |
| B. in disagreement | 2. _____ plausible | 2. E |
| C. interrupted | 3. _____ contradictory | 3. B |
| D. mild; merciful | 4. _____ lenient | 4. D |
| E. believable | 5. _____ terminated | 5. A |
| F. put apart from others | | |

14.

READ the following paragraphs:

- a. The Viet Cong have surrounded parts of South Vietnam. Therefore, many of the people in this besieged country live in fear and danger.
- b. The United States often makes the point that it does not want to govern Vietnam. The American government emphasizes the fact that the Vietnamese should be able to choose their own leaders.
- c. General Ky is one of the most noticeable and important people in Vietnamese politics. He is conspicuous in both the government and the military.
- d. He hopes the Vietnamese will form a more orderly government. A systematic government for Vietnam is very important.

Using what you have learned about finding definitions in words or sentences around a word, MATCH the words in Column B with their definitions in Column A.

Column A

Column B

- | | | |
|-------------------------------|----------------------|------|
| A. based on plan; organized | 1. _____ besieged | 1. D |
| B. easy to see; outstanding | 2. _____ conspicuous | 2. B |
| C. give special importance to | 3. _____ emphasize | 3. C |
| D. hemmed in by armed forces | 4. _____ systematic | 4. A |
| E. messy; disorderly | | |

42.

In the next two frames, you will be asked to read paragraphs that contain words you probably don't know. But using the skills you have learned in this lesson, you should be able to figure out the meanings of these words.

For example, READ this paragraph:

There are nearly 200 million people in this country. Among this multitude are many different types. Some are very wealthy, living in great ease and comfort. But others are destitute. Some make their homes in the country, although most of them reside in urban areas.

Each of the underlined words above is listed below. Use the passage to help you figure out what they mean. Then MATCH them with their definitions in Column A.

Column A

- A. city
- B. farmers
- C. large numbers
- D. live
- E. poor

Column B

- 1. _____ multitude
- 2. _____ destitute
- 3. _____ reside
- 4. _____ urban

- 1. C
- 2. E
- 3. D
- 4. A

<p>15.</p> <p>PREVIEW FRAME</p> <p>Sometimes another word in the sentence means the same thing as the word you don't know.</p> <p>For example, in the statement below <u>made</u> and <u>created</u> mean the same thing.</p> <p>The Bible says that God <u>made</u> animals on the fifth day and that on the sixth day He <u>created</u> man.</p> <p>In the following frames you will be taught to select the context for words that have the same meaning as an unknown word.</p> <p>NO RESPONSE REQUIRED</p>	<p>GO ON TO THE NEXT FRAME</p>
<p>16.</p> <p>The boxer's <u>plan</u> was to win the fight, but it was not his <u>intention</u> to seriously hurt anyone.</p> <p>Plan has nearly the same meaning as intention.</p> <p><u>Intention</u> in this context means:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> chance <input type="checkbox"/> interest <input type="checkbox"/> operation <input type="checkbox"/> purpose 	<p>purpose</p>
<p>17.</p> <p>In each of the following examples, CIRCLE the word or words that have about the same meaning as the underlined word.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. A fair judge is <u>impartial</u>. b. Part of every man's <u>function</u> or role in society is to help his neighbor. c. The air force pilots in Vietnam were asked to <u>maintain</u> their good work and keep up their record. 	<p>fair</p> <p>role</p> <p>keep up</p>

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40.

It's always a feast or a famine.

Famine means:

- ☐ Egyptian King
- ☐ familiar
- ☐ food shortage
- ☐ holiday

food shortage

41.

READ the following:

Clay was a courageous boxer and it wasn't surprising that his opponent was frightened. Clay was very active in the first round but his opponent did not move about much. By the third round there was no doubt as to who was boss in the ring. In the fourth round there were many wild and savage punches. Although Clay made the most punches there was no scarcity on either side. At the end of the bout the decision of the judges in favor of Clay was unanimous. However, there were a few supporters of the other man who disagreed with their decision.

Now MATCH the words in Column A with their meanings in Column B.

Column A

- A. brave
- B. in complete agreement
- C. lack
- D. lively
- E. polite

Column B

- 1. _____ courageous
- 2. _____ active
- 3. _____ scarcity
- 4. _____ unanimous

- 1. A
- 2. D
- 3. C
- 4. B

18.

READ the following examples. There is a word similar to the underlined word in each of these examples. CIRCLE that word in each example.

- a. Measles is a disease that most children get. This illness often causes spots on the skin.
- b. If you are the owner of a car or motorcycle, you are a consumer of gasoline. Like all buyers of gasoline, you must pay gasoline taxes.
- c. If a man wears a heavy coat in very hot weather, you might say he is unusual or eccentric.
- d. A suspect is often asked to relate his comings and goings the night of the crime. What he reports is then checked out by the police.

illness

buyers

unusual

reports

19.

MATCH the words in Column A with their meanings in Column B. (You may refer to the examples in the previous frame.)

Column A

Column B

A. make

1. _____ consumer

F

B. odd

2. _____ disease

C

C. sickness

3. _____ eccentric

B

D. sign

4. _____ relate

E

E. tell

5. _____ symbol

D

F. user

20.

STOP

WRITE the time you finished frame 19 here: _____

You may take a break now. Leave the room quietly, and relax for a few minutes. When you return, begin working on Part B of this lesson.

<p>37.</p> <p>If you have type AB blood you are a universal recipient or receiver, but if you have type O blood you are a universal <u>donor</u>.</p> <p>What does <u>donor</u> mean ?</p> <p> <input type="checkbox"/> bleeder <input type="checkbox"/> doughnut <input type="checkbox"/> giver <input type="checkbox"/> helper </p>	<p>giver</p>
<p>38.</p> <p>Although the Model T was once a popular car, more modern models are used now. The Model T is <u>obsolete</u>.</p> <p>You can tell from the contrast that <u>obsolete</u> means:</p> <p> <input type="checkbox"/> expensive <input type="checkbox"/> modern <input type="checkbox"/> no longer used <input type="checkbox"/> still popular </p>	<p>no longer used</p>
<p>39.</p> <p>Although the welder was <u>proficient</u> at his job, he was unskilled on the company's bowling team.</p> <p><u>Proficient</u> means:</p> <p> <input type="checkbox"/> very able <input type="checkbox"/> very late <input type="checkbox"/> very noisy <input type="checkbox"/> very profitable </p>	<p>very able</p>

Write the time you returned from your
break here: _____

34.

CIRCLE the word that indicates or shows you that a contrast may be present in this sentence:

Although he wished he didn't have to go to school, he knew that it was inevitable until he turned sixteen.

Inevitable means:

- ☐ had to happen
- ☐ ineffective
- ☐ learning
- ☐ unnecessary

Although

had to happen

35.

Although most of the Job Corpsmen got along well together, there was some friction between two of the boys.

The word friction tells us that two of the boys:

- ☐ didn't like each other
- ☐ liked each other
- ☐ lived together
- ☐ weren't in the group

didn't like each other

36.

Vinegar has a pungent taste, but oil is mild or bland.

What does pungent mean?

- ☐ bad
- ☐ bland
- ☐ dull
- ☐ sharp

sharp

21.

So far you have learned two context clues: given definitions, and similar words. A third way of searching a word's neighborhood to discover its meaning is to look for a contrast situation.

Here is a list of some words in contrast to show you what contrast means:

bad: good
black: white
city: country
cold: hot
day: night
dwarf: giant
light: dark
positive: negative
simple: complex
sweet: sour

Words in contrast are words that have:

- ☐ the opposite meaning
☐ the same meaning

the opposite meaning

22.

WRITE a word that is in contrast to each of these words:

- a. cheap
b. fat
c. heavy
d. high
e. tall
f. wet

expensive
thin
light
low
short
dry

(Your answers may be a little different from the ones given here.)

55

<p>31.</p> <p>CIRCLE the word that points to a contrast in this statement:</p> <p>Most of the committee members kept <u>fluctuating</u> in their opinions. However, the chairman had his mind made up from the beginning.</p> <p><u>Fluctuating</u> means:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> arguing <input type="checkbox"/> changing <input type="checkbox"/> flunking <input type="checkbox"/> getting confused 	<p>However</p> <p>changing</p>
<p>32.</p> <p>Very few of the guys liked the idea of having a dance but the <u>majority</u> of the girls were in favor of it.</p> <p>The <u>majority</u> means:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> a couple <input type="checkbox"/> group <input type="checkbox"/> most <input type="checkbox"/> none 	<p>most</p>
<p>33.</p> <p>It had been raining for many days, but the townspeople did not mind because they remembered what it had been like during the months of <u>drought</u>.</p> <p>What does <u>drought</u> mean?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> dry period <input type="checkbox"/> food shortage <input type="checkbox"/> rainy period <input type="checkbox"/> summer 	<p>dry period</p>

23.

Let's see how knowing something about contrast can help you to discover the meanings of words. READ this sentence:

Although he was poor, he could tell any rich person a thing or two about cars.

If you did not know the meaning of poor, you could discover it from a word in contrast. What word in this sentence is in contrast to poor? _____

rich

24.

Let's try another example.

An arithmetic problem can often be complicated. However a short cut sometimes makes it very easy.

What word in contrast gives you a clue to the meaning of complicated? _____

What does complicated mean?

- ☐ compared
- ☐ difficult
- ☐ accomplished
- ☐ pleasurable

easy

difficult

29.

Now READ this sentence, looking carefully at the underlined word.

The quarterback was completely rested at the beginning of the game. However, by the end of the third quarter, he was suffering from exhaustion.

What word tells you to look for contrast?

DRAW a circle around the word that is in contrast to exhaustion.

If someone is suffering from exhaustion, they are:

- ☐ happy
- ☐ thirsty
- ☐ wide-awake
- ☐ worn out

However

rested

worn out

30.

Their teacher tried very hard to get them interested in science, but the students remained indifferent.

CIRCLE the word in contrast to indifferent.

What does indifferent mean?

- ☐ excited
- ☐ lazy
- ☐ seated
- ☐ uninterested

interested

uninterested

25.

There are certain words that tell you a contrast word might be in the neighborhood. You can look for a contrast word when you see one of these words:

but although however

Each of the sentences below contains one of the above words. CIRCLE the word in each sentence below that points to a contrast situation.

1. The medicine a doctor gives you will be beneficial for you, but it might be harmful if you gave it to someone else.
2. Although most of the Job Corpsmen got along well together, there was some friction between two of the boys.
3. Most of the committee members kept fluctuating in their opinions. However, the chairman had his mind made up from the beginning.
4. Very few of the guys liked the idea of having a dance, but the majority of the girls were in favor of it.

but

Although

However

but

26.

On the line after each sentence, FILL IN THE BLANK with the word that points to a contrast word.

It had been raining for many days, but the townspeople did not mind because they remembered what it had been like during the months of drought.

but

Although he wished he didn't have to go to school, he knew that it was inevitable until he turned sixteen.

Although

The quarterback was completely rested at the beginning of the game. However, by the end of the third quarter, he was suffering from exhaustion.

However

Their teacher tried very hard to get them interested in science, but the students remained indifferent.

but

27.

There are three words that you will often find in sentences using contrast. When you see one of these words, you will know to look for a contrast clue to help you figure out a word you do not know. What are the three words that often indicate contrast?

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

although

but

however

(any order)

28.

READ this sentence.

The medicine a doctor gives you will be beneficial for you, but it might be harmful if you give it to someone else.

What word tells you there is probably a contrast situation in this sentence? _____

In the above example, beneficial means the opposite of harmful. Therefore, beneficial means:

- ☐ bad-tasting
- ☐ dangerous
- ☐ helpful
- ☐ poisonous

but

helpful

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